PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Appln. No. 09/776,715

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037-3213 Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: May 25, 2001

Registration No. 36,359

George F. Lehnigk

Attorney Docket No.: Q62116

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Appln. No. 09/776,715

APPENDIX VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, lines 1-3:

This is a Continuation of International Application PCT/EP99/05299, with an international filing date of July 23, 1999, which was published under PCT Article 21(2) in German, and the disclosure of which is incorporated into this application by reference.